

REMARKS

Below are presented detailed remarks addressing each objection/rejection raised filed in the office action dated September 13, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1) Rejections based on Dorner

In response to the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-10 and 21-23 as anticipated by Dorner et al., applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 as suggested in the last action. Specifically, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to positively recite the steps of collecting shed blood form a patient, allowing red blood cells to separate and re-infusing the red blood cells into the patient. The amendment should help to address concerns raised in previous actions regarding the meaning of "shed blood" and the scope of the claimed processes. It is noted that claims 5 and 22 are cancelled.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-10, 21 and 23 is requested.

2) Rejections based on U.S. Pat. No. 4,765,899 (Wells et al.)

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 11 and 21-23 based on the '899 (Wells et al.) patent, applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 to specify that the inert anticoagulant is selected from a group consisting of CPD and Heparin. That limitation was previously the subject matter of claim 5, which has been cancelled (along with dependent claim 22). The '899 patent does not disclose using CPD or Heparin as the anticoagulant.

Reconsideration of the rejections based on the '899 patent, in light of the

amendments made is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

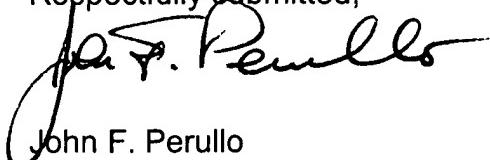
Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 and request reconsideration of the obviousness rejections based on U.S. Pat No. 5,879,318 (Van der Heiden) in view of the Dorner article. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite the steps of collecting shed blood from a patient, allowing red blood cells to separate and re-infusing the red blood cells into the patient. Neither Van der Heiden nor Dorner disclose the steps of drawing blood from a patient, separating out red blood cells and then re-infusing them back into the patient. Accordingly, the combination of Van der Heiden and Dorner cannot be considered to suggest those steps, which are now recited in each of the claims of the present application.

Based on the foregoing amendments and explanatory remarks, reconsideration of the claim rejections is requested.

If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 50-3067.

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Respectfully submitted,



John F. Perullo
Reg. No. 39,498

Haemonetics Corporation
400 Wood Road
Braintree, MA 02184
Telephone: 781-356-9377
Facsimile: 781-356-3558